

32 Early Childhood programs serving over 1,200 children from all around Vermont were all asked the same set of questions about their experience operating a meal program:

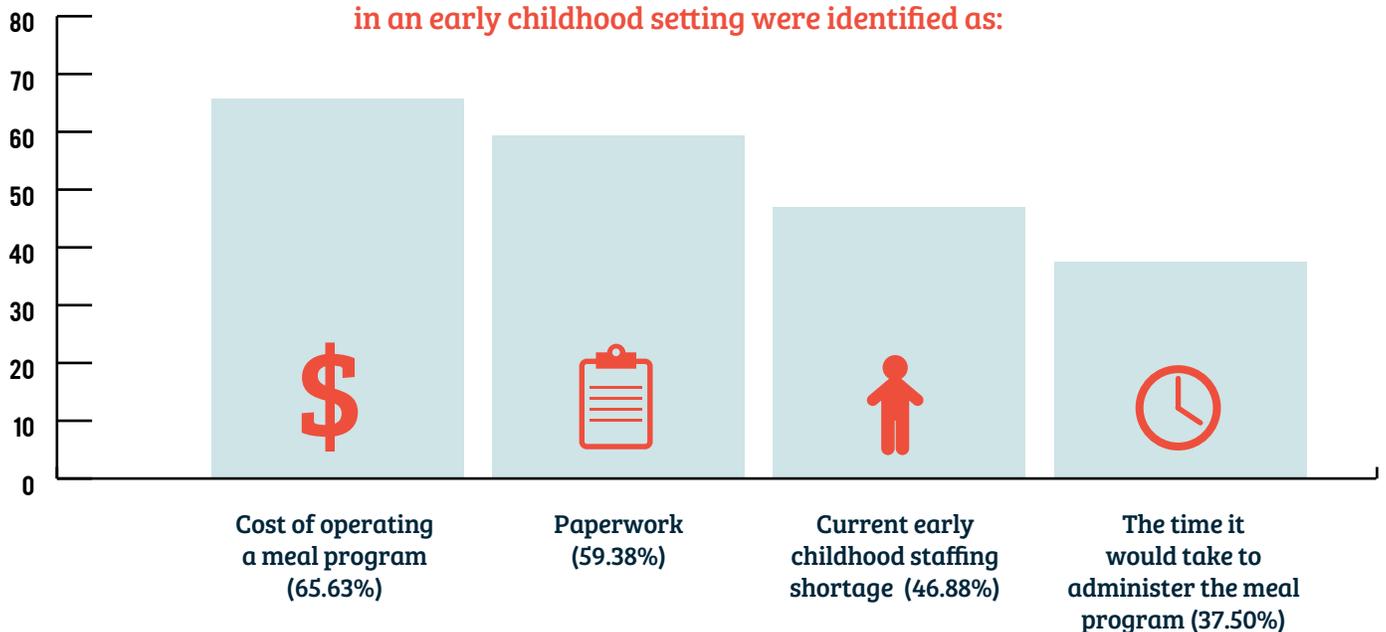
- What is the cost of operating your meal program, if you have one?
- What are barriers to operating a successful meal program in early childhood settings?
- What are the successes you've experienced operating your early childhood meal program?
- What are things you would need in order to operate your dream program?

What will this data be used for?

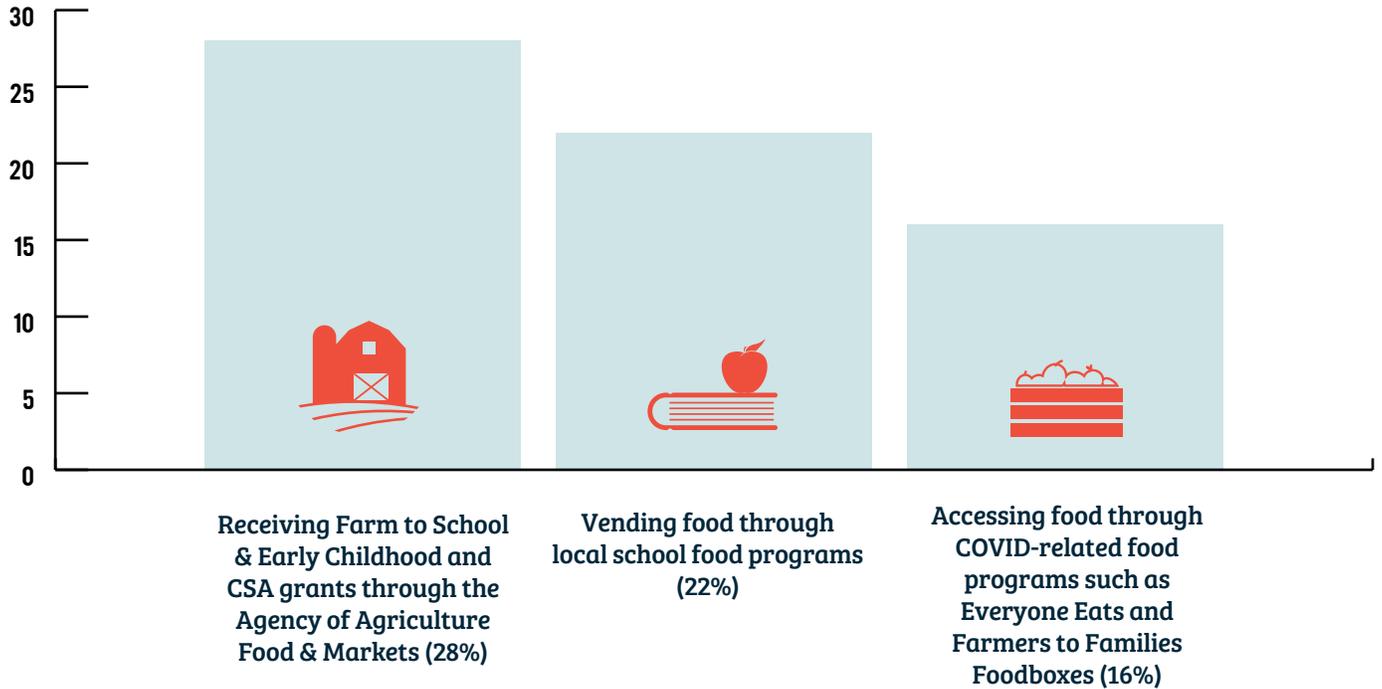
The hope is that the information gleaned from these important conversations will be used to better advocate for and support early childhood programs across Vermont in many ways. We can use this data and these personal narratives to provide more intentional technical assistance, and to advocate for program flexibilities and expansion at the federal level to make the federal meal program more accessible for early childhood programs. All children deserve equitable access to quality nutrition, whether they are at home, at school, or enrolled in an early childhood program.

OUT OF THE 32 EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THIS STUDY. . .

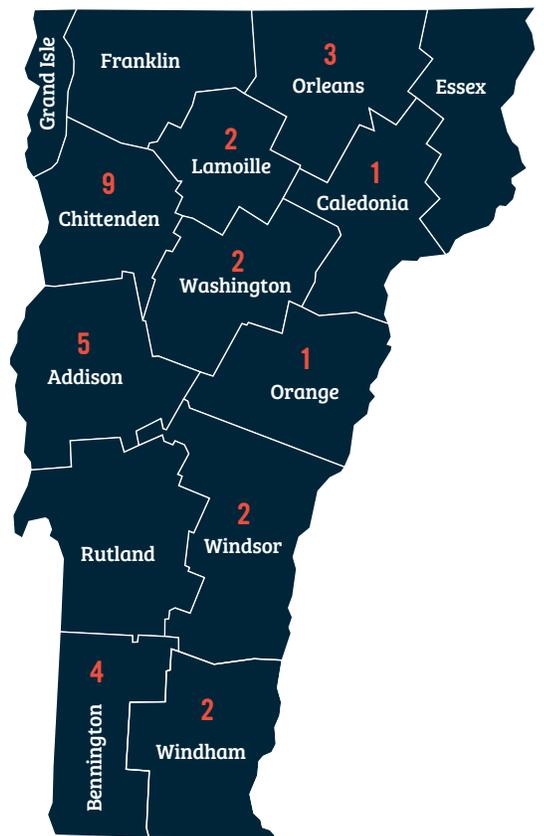
The top 4 common barriers to operating a quality meal program in an early childhood setting were identified as:



The top three most commonly mentioned successes included:



Demographics by county:



63.6% of the conversations included themes of Farm to School & Early Childhood

